

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 06858 202236Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SAB-01 PM-03 L-01 INR-05

PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /036 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6151

AMEMBASSY QUITO NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6858

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP PN US CI

SUBJECT: CHILEAN INITIAL REACTION TO PANAMA CANAL TREATY SIGNING
CEREMONY

REF: STATE 198648

1. PRESIDENT PINOCHET AND SENIOR MINISTERS OUT OF SANTIAGO FOR
WEEKEND. ACCORDINGLY NO POLICY LEVEL RESPONSE POSSIBLE UNTIL
EARLY NEXT WEEK.

2. WORKING LEVELS IN CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTRY NOT VERY RECEPTIVE
TO IDEA. FOREIGN MINISTERS OF PERU, ECUADOR AND CHILE (WHO NOW
MEETING AT SANTIAGO IN COMMEMORATION OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
JOINT DECLARATION ASSERTING 200 MILE MARITIME ZONE) REPORTEDLY
HAVE DISCUSSED PANAMA CANAL ISSUE. IN BILATERAL TALKS, ECUADOREAN
ALLEGEDLY SHOT DOWN CHILEAN DRAFT AT PERU/CHILE/ECUADOR CONGRAT-
ULATORY MESSAGE TO PANAMA AND US. FOREIGN MINISTERS FEAR TOLLS
WILL GO UP SHARPLY UNDER NEW TREATY. THEY WANT COMMITMENT ON TOLL
QUESTION BEFORE WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTING TREATY.

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3. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ALSO EXPRESSED OPINION THAT
PINOCHET (AND, PRESUMABLY, OTHER CHIEFS OF STATE) WILL BE
RELUCTANT TO MAKE PILGRIMAGE TO WASHINGTON TO PARTICIPATE IN
PUBLIC RELATIONS EVENT "LIKE BUNCH OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S CABINET
MINISTERS."

4. NOTWITHSTANDING THESE PRELIMINARY REACTIONS, WE ANTICIPATE
CONSIDERABLE CAUCUSING AMONG LA'S AT SENIOR LEVELS. PRESIDENT
PINOCHET'S POSSIBLE ATTENDANCE AT A SIGNING CEREMONY WILL DEPEND
UPON REACTIONS IN NEARBY CAPITALS; SHOULD ARGENTINA AND BRASIL
(OR ALL THE OTHER WEST COAST COUNTRIES) GO ALONG, SO WOULD CHILE.
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Message Attributes

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